

Main Categories of Rural Land	What is it?	Why is it important?	What's happening to it?	What can be done to protect/save it?
Farmland	Land that is used to grow crops and fruit	Provides food	Threatened by urban development	<i>Farmland Protection Program:</i> helps state, county, and local governments protect farmland in danger of being developed
Rangeland	Land that supports different vegetation types but is <b>not</b> used for farming or timber production.  Used for <b>grazing</b> of livestock: cattle, sheep, goats	Essential for maintaining the world's food supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degraded by <b>overgrazing</b> (<i>allowing more animals to graze in an area than the range can support</i>)</li> <li>Invaded by less desirable plant species</li> <li>Nothing to keep the soil from eroding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit herds to sizes that don't degrade the land</li> <li>Leave unused for periods of time</li> <li>Kill invasive plants &amp; plant natural vegetation</li> <li>Digging several small water holes</li> </ul>
Forest land	Land covered with trees	Provide products: paper, furniture, lumber, plywood, maple syrup  Removal of CO <sub>2</sub> from the air	Trees being harvested: <i>Each person's use of wood in the U.S. is equal to each person cutting down a tree that is 30m tall every year.</i>  <b>Clear-cutting:</b> removing all of the trees from an area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destroys habitats</li> <li>May cause erosion</li> </ul> <b>Selective cutting:</b> cutting & removing only middle-aged or mature trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More expensive</li> <li>Much less destructive</li> </ul> <b>Deforestation:</b> clearing trees from an area without replacing them.	<b>Reforestation:</b> trees are planted to re-establish trees that have been cut down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required by some governments</li> </ul>
Parks & Preserves	Protected public lands  <b>Wilderness:</b> an area in which the land and the ecosystems it supports are protected from all exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect species</li> <li>Provide recreation for people</li> <li>Serve as outdoor classrooms &amp; research laboratories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Litter</li> <li>Traffic jams</li> <li>Rangelands, mining, logging, oil drilling, factories, power plants &amp; urban areas are close enough to affect the parks</li> <li>Affected by climate change &amp; air and water pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limits on people permitted in some areas.</li> <li>Some are completely closed to visitors.</li> <li>Volunteer programs.</li> </ul>

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